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DEPARTMENT OF STATE UNCLASSIFIED

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OFFICE OF DIRECTOR
S/P

October 17, 1952

TO: G - Mr. Matthews

FROM: NEA - Mr. Byroade

SUBJECT: Transmittal to the Defense Department of US Note to French on MEDO.

Discussion:

The attached letter to the Secretary of Defense forwards for his information a copy of the US note on MEDO presented to an officer of the French Embassy on October 14, 1952. The note reflects the views of the Defense Department as stated in Mr. Foster's letter of October 13, 1952.

Recommendation:

That you sign the attached letter to the Secretary of Defense.

DECLASSIFICATION DATE 6/28/78
PER NOTES OFFICE NEA
720115

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY WOLF JR DATE 10/4/82
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Oct 21, 1952
Middle East

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I refer to Mr. Foster's letter of October 13, 1952 forwarding the comments of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on the proposed United States reply to the French note of August 15, 1952, concerning the Middle East Defense Organization. The note was revised to incorporate the views expressed by the Joint Chiefs of Staff and was presented to a representative of the French Embassy on October 14, 1952. A copy of the United States note in the revised form transmitted to the French Government is attached for your information.

Sincerely yours,

For the Secretary of State:

H. Freeman Matthews
Deputy Under Secretary

Enclosure:

Copy of note delivered to representative of French Embassy.

The Honorable
Robert A. Lovett,
Secretary of Defense.

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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

Near East

13 OCT 1952

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to your letter of 22 September which enclosed a draft copy of a memorandum setting forth suggested U. S. comments on proposals put forward by the French Government in regard to the Middle East Defense Organization.

Attached hereto is a copy of a memorandum dated 6 October 1952 which expresses the views of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on the subject. I concur in those views.

While the memorandum expresses general concurrence in the Department of State draft reply to the French, paragraph 5 and 6 make two substantive comments. In order that the final draft of th e reply to the French aide memoire may express the over-all United States views on the subject, it is requested that the draft reply be revised to incorporate the views expressed in the enclosed memorandum.

Sincerely,

(signed) William C. Foster

DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1 Enclosure:

JCS memo dtd 6 OCT 52

The Honorable

The Secretary of State

UNCLASSIFIED SECURITY INFORMATION

THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

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6 October 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: Proposed United States Comments on a French Government Memorandum Regarding the Middle East Defense Organization

1. This memorandum is in response to your memorandum of 29 September 1952, subject as above, in which the comments and recommendations of the Joint Chiefs of Staff were requested on an enclosed letter, dated 22 September 1952, from the Department of State. The Department of State letter forwarded for the consideration of the Department of Defense a proposed reply to a French aide-memoire relating to the British proposals for organizing the defense of the Middle East.

2. In their memorandum for you dated 29 July 1952, subject "Middle East Defense Organization", the Joint Chiefs of Staff expressed the opinion that the subject of a steering group will almost inevitably arise in any exchange of views dealing with a Middle East Defense Organization (MEDO). The Joint Chiefs of Staff recommended a position to be taken by the United States in this eventuality.

3. The French Government has now raised the subject of a steering (or standing) group for MEDO, and a difference of opinion on this subject obviously exists at this time between the Governments of the United States and France.

4. While the Department of State's draft reply does not set forth affirmatively, as a United States position, the detailed recommendations of the Joint Chiefs of Staff concerning a MEDO steering group, the draft reply does reflect the general tenor of the views of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on this subject. The Joint Chiefs of Staff assume that this generalized expression of United States views concerning this controversial point is intended to serve as a prelude to a more specific statement of a United States position in subsequent communications or

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discussions, should this be necessary. Therefore, the Joint Chiefs of Staff have no objection to the general nature of the reply to the preliminary observations of the French Government on this point.

5. With reference to the ad hoc arrangement being proposed by the Department of State as a means of coordinating the views of the United States, France, the United Kingdom, and Turkey and of bringing the coordinated view of these four powers to bear on the operations of the Planning Group, the Joint Chiefs of Staff understand that it is the intent of the Department of State that such an ad hoc arrangement would be on the military level.

6. The first part of paragraph 2 of the French aide-memoire raises the same point as to the source of direction and guidance to the proposed Planning Group as was raised by the Department of State, upon the recommendation of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in commenting to the British Foreign Office on the British proposals for the establishment of a MEDO. Although the Department of State in the second paragraph of its draft reply to the French Government proposes "to indicate its position on the several important points developed in the [French] memorandum of August 15", no reference is made to this point. Even though it is understood that copies of the United States comments on the British proposals were subsequently circulated to all of the sponsoring powers, the Joint Chiefs of Staff consider that it would be appropriate for the Department of State, as a tactical move, to express concurrence with the comments of the French Government concerning this point.

7. Subject to the foregging, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, from the military point of view, recommend that you express concurrence in the Department of State draft reply to the French aide-memoire.

For the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

(signed)

OMAR N. BRADLEY,
Chairman
Joint Chiefs of Staff

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